

Update - Coutts

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Date: Tue, 01 Feb 2022 08:57:01 -0700

Good Morning,

Further to our call Dennis, this morning at 0800 I spoke with the Commanding Officer, RCMP and received an update on the situation at the border.

- Despite initial indications of a desire to comply with police, discussions had continued with the protestors over the evening and night but were not successful and the highway remains blocked.
- There are still in excess of 100 transports and drivers still involved.
- Police resources remain in place to engage in enforcement action as early as potentially this morning.
- Sheriff Highway Patrol (Commercial Vehicle specialists) are being engaged to support the RCMP during the enforcement efforts.
- Civilian tow / wrecker companies are expressing reluctance to assist the police, though police advise that they have a contingency in place should they refuse to provide assistance.
- RCMP, in addition to the HTA, CIDA and CCC are exploring the possible use of Management Orders under the Provincial Civil Forfeiture Act as a tool during enforcement.
- Once enforcement is underway, and depending upon the level of commitment of the protestors and the state of the vehicles, the clearing of the transports could potentially take an extended period of time (days) to be completed, even if the arrest phase is uneventful.
- RCMP may approach Transportation in relation to a potential injunction if necessary to keep further protesters from attending to the area during that enforcement period. (This will be considered further as the situation develops.)
- Next briefing of the department is tentatively planned for late morning / noon.

I have advised the CO of the desire for a briefing to the Premier at 1230 today. He, and the Gold commander, Assistant Commissioner John Ferguson, and likely Chief Superintendent Peter Tewfik will be available for the briefing. If, as it appears likely right now, they are involved in the enforcement phase then the Bronze (on scene) commander will likely be too engaged in operations to participate in the briefing, but they will know more at the time of the briefing. They will be prepared to speak to the current status of the event and to the degree possible future timelines (depending on the situation) as well as the history of the event to date.

Marlin

Classification: Protected A